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13 November 1946

Category U.S.S.R.

Subject Soviet PW Camps: Cherpovets, Dnipropetrovsk, Omsk, Kirov, Leningrad, Moscow, Novosibirsk, Nizhniy Tagil, Tula.

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Chernovets

Some 1,100 P.W.s. These camps held 5-7000 men, officers and all. P.W.s were employed on farm, railroad, and bridge projects.

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2.

Men who escaped from Germany, seen along the rail lines in Russia and Poland, evidently had suffered from exposure. Creation of German plants in Russia appeared to suffer from administrative confusion as well as lack of material and special workers.

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4.

Russian civilians were friendly and gave money or sold food to the P.W.s. Bread was priced at seven rubles for 200 grams.

Chernovets

5.

Some 1,100 P.W.s were employed on a variety of jobs: factory, pipe laying, dismantling, and brick cleaning. Insufficient food weakened the men and only some 400 of a quota of 600 bricks could be cleaned daily. Twenty-five percent of the P.W.s are said to have died during the winter of 1945. Those expected to die were removed to a city general hospital.

6.

Water pipes were laid four meters underground; the excavation work was done with hammers and chisels. Those in Category I were assigned to lay one cubic meter per day; Category II, three-fourths of a cubic meter; and Category III, half a cubic meter. An additional ration of fifty grams of bread was issued if the assignment was fulfilled.

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7. A four-hour political indoctrination course was given every evening by Germans captured at Stalingrad, converted in Moscow, and generally termed "Politruks" by PWS. There were also some informants who extolled the KP( and SED as well as the fine state of reconstruction in the Russian Zone.
8. PWS from Cherepovets were issued American dehydrated potatoes and canned meat at Bielskostok during their return trip, and three days' rations - hardbread, hulled wheat, forty grams of sugar, and fifty grams of butter - at Frankfurt A/C.

#### Soviet

9. Several large camps in the Soviet area contained civilian civilians who worked in Germany during the war. They were closely supervised by the NKVD. The PV camp was located in the woods. Its inmates were engaged in forestry, street construction, railroad and bridge repair work. The food ration was insufficient, because of the black market activities of Soviet personnel.

#### Tatary

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10. [REDACTED] 20,000 PWS who were permitted to live near their work sites during the last few months. Only some 100 sick and incapacitated prisoners remained in the camp proper. PWS were employed in two small tall barracks, boats, in forestry, in peat beds, on roads, and on the reconstruction of a power station. German industrial equipment was at only damaged on arrival but suffered further deterioration through clumsy unloading operations.
  11. Orientation lectures were given by ANFIYA speakers who played up the progress made in the Russian Zone of Germany. The transport of informant consisted of 1,300 men who were shipped to Frankfurt A/C; at Moscow they were joined by a shipment of 450 officers, 37 of whom were retained at Frankfurt A/C. Two Soviet female physicians and some nurses accompanied the PWS.

#### Moscow

12. Camps No. 80, 81, 82. These camps, in the vicinity of Moscow housed 6,000 PWS each; officers and men live together. (No date is supplied on this information, but it is believed to refer to late 1945.)

#### Tula

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13. Camp 200. [REDACTED] about 15 July 1946, the camp held 400 Germans, including 15 officers, 30 male civilians, and 200 female civilians; the latter were penned in a separate enclosure. PWS worked with Russian civilians (not forced labor) on railroad construction and housing and in a brick factory.

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14. After some few talks on the SED by a political commissar and the distribution of speeches by Wilhelm Pieck, there was an indoctrination of prisoners. A newspaper publication, Heute für unsere Freunde, was issued irregularly and reached the camp about a month after its Moscow release date. No other literature was available. Three films were shown, and in May 1946 a PW democratic group was permitted to function. [redacted] STAT  
[redacted] STAT

15. The repatriation transport, consisting of 600 PWs, left Moscow on 15 July 1946, via Smolensk, Minsk, Brest-Litovsk, and Warsaw and arrived at Pyrnfurt a/o on 3 August. The men were greeted by a reception committee, including a man with a microphone who waved forward three well-dressed, healthy looking strangers who had not traveled with the authentic PWs but were interviewed on such. (W. Para. 3 above for a similar episode).

Barbar

16. [redacted]

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Leningrad

17. ~~June 1945~~. This camp is situated about 20 km east of the city. About June 1945, inmates numbered 6,000-7,000, of whom approximately 2,500-3,000 died up to July 1946. Present strength is not reported. PWs mined aluminum, worked in the forests and on land reclamation. Soviet civilians were employed as foremen. The work day was ten hours, with one free Sunday per month.

Moscow

18. The top strength of this camp was 6,000; the present number of PWs is unknown. The chief labor was railway construction. Political lectures were held twice weekly and generally were delivered by German ANTIFA men.

Stalag-104

19. Although some PWs here were employed in the tank factory, others loaded coal or built bridges and roads. Those who exceeded their work quotas were paid up to 300 rubles, with which it was possible to buy U.S. canned milk (60 rubles) and meat (400 rubles) on the black market. Out-going mail was dispatched every three months, but only working PWs were allowed to write letters or cards. Mail deliveries to 40 men amounted to 4 post-cards between October 1945 and August 1946.

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